

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 SCA-01 VO-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04 AID-05 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN:LGS

APPROVED BY D/HA/ORM:JLCARLIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EPP - MEDICAL PROBLEMS

1. DEPT IS VERY CONCERNED AT REPORTS THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WITH SERIOUS MEDICAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, ARE ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES WITH NO WARNING TO SPONSORS. FOR EXAMPLE, SACRAMENTO RECENTLY RECEIVED THREE CAMBODIANS, ONE WITH ACTIVE MALARIA, ONE WITH ACTIVE SYPHILLIS AND ONE WITH ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS. IN ALBERQUERQUE A FAMILY ARRIVED WITH ONE CHILD ILL WITH DIPHTHERIA. IT SEEMS

CLEAR THAT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED FOR EPP BY BANGKOK ARE INADEQUATE. EMBASSY SHOULD REQUEST ICEM TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP URGENTLY WITH THAI HOSPITALS TO WHICH SUCH EXAMINATIONS CONTRACTED. OBVIOUSLY, A CONTINUATION OF THIS SITUATION NOT ONLY CREATES HEALTH HAZARDS BUT WILL HAVE AN EXTREMELY DAMAGING EFFECT ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEARCH FOR SPONSORS.

2. PRESUMABLY, IT IS ICEM POLICY TO HOLD REFUGEES WITH ACTIVE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES UNTIL TREATMENT CAN BRING THE CONDITION TO AN ACTIVE OR BENIGN STAGE. EVEN AFTER SUCH TREATMENT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN, STEPS SHOULD STILL BE TAKEN

TO ASSURE THAT THE SPONSOR IS FOREWARNED THROUGH THE VOLAG OF THIS POTENTIAL HEALTH PROBLEM. THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF ANY OTHER SERIOUS MEDICAL PROBLEMS. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT SPONSORS ARE QUITE TOLERANT OF THE EXISTENCE OF MEDICAL PROBLEMS IF THEY ARE FOREWARNED. IF NOT, THIS COMES AS A SHOCK AND IS MOST DISTRESSING. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ICEM WILL ALSO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON SERIOUS INFIRMITIES, PREFERABLY PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF REFUGEE.

SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WITH FURTHER DETAILS. REQUEST EMBASSY REPORT ON THIS SITUATION ASAP. KISSINGER

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